



European Association of Development Agencies
Association Européenne des Agences de Développement

EURADA 2007 Activity Report

EURADA is the professional association of regional development agencies operating in Europe formally created in 1991. EURADA's mission statement is to promote regional economic development through :

- dialogue with the European Commission services and other Community institutions;
- interchange of good practice among members;
- transnational co-operation among members;
- regional development agencies as a concept
- implementation of new ideas.

A Word from the President

2007 was the occasion of many exchanges in (often innovative) areas such as business retention, the anticipation of change in the manufacturing fabric, innovation in the services sector, cooperation between clusters, and even the concept of research intensive clusters.

2007 was for EURADA and a number of its member the year of the termination of interregional cooperation projects, and thus of reflections on the topics to tackled within the framework of the next calls for proposals.

In terms of lobbying and representation of the development agencies' interests with the Community authorities, mention should be made of our involvement in the reflections conducted by different Directorates General with regard to clusters (Cluster Memorandum & Research Intensive Clusters), in the field of local development (social responsibility of enterprises at local level and adaptation to change in SMEs), as well as in the awareness campaigns introduced by the European Commission with regard to sustainable development or entrepreneurial regions.

I am also delighted that representatives of the European Commission have participated in our work on several occasions. This shows that the topics of our conferences and seminars are of a high level and in line with the agenda and concerns of the Commission. I sometimes regret that our colleagues from the 12 new Member States of the European Union do not sufficiently perceive the EURADA events as a basis for new developments in their regions, as real opportunities of life long vocational training or for new partnerships.

I wish that in 2008 the work of EURADA be a source of inspiration of the work of our agencies.

I will conclude and thank you on the one hand for the trust you placed in me and the Board members by extending our term of office of one year at the head of EURADA, and on the other hand for your support in 2007 to the influence of our association either through presentations, or through your involvement in transnational cooperation projects, or your presence in the various events.

Jacques Evrard
President of Eurada 2006-2008

*
* *
*

The contents of this year's activity report is presented against EURADA's main objectives, which are — for the record — the following:

- Promotion of the association
- Dialogue with the European Commission
- Exchange of experiences among members
- Promotion of joint projects
- Dissemination of development agencies as a concept
- Discussion around new regional development methodologies.

These objectives were pursued via the publication of a newsletter and reports, the adoption of position papers forwarded to the European Commission, as well as the organisation of a series of members' meetings.

I. Statutory Bodies of the Association

The articles of association were changed in the General Assembly of 15 November 2007 in order to extend from two to three years the term of office of the members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the President. The General Assembly has also coopted Mr Lucyan PAPIERNIK and Mr Francisco ROYANO GUTIERREZ in the Board of Directors. As a consequence, the composition of the EURADA Board of Directors is as follows in 2008 :

A	• ecoplus Niederösterreichs Entwicklungsagentur GmbH	Helmut HEINISCH
B	• Agence Bruxelloise pour l'Entreprise • IGRETEC - Intercommunale pour la Gestion et la Réalisation d'Etudes Techniques et Economique	Jacques EVRARD Lucyan PAPIERNIK
D	• AGIT – Aachener Gesellschaft für Innovation und Technologie Transfer mbH	Ralf MEIER
DK	• Region Sjaelland	Kristian PRIMDAL
E	• ADE Inversiones y Servicios • Agencia de Innovación y Desarrollo de Andalucía • Instituto de Fomento de la Región de Murcia	Miguel Angel GARRIDO Miguel LUCENA Luis Miguel ANRÉS RODRÍGUEZ

- IMADE – Instituto Madrileño de Desarrollo
 - IMPIVA – Instituto de la Mediana y Pequeña Industria Valenciana
 - SODERCAN – Sociedad para el Desarrollo Regional de Cantabria
 - SPRI – Sociedad para la Promocin y Reconversión Industrial
- F
- Agence de Développement de l'Aisne
 - ADEC – Agence de Développement Economique de la Corse
 - Agence Régionale de Développement du Limousin
 - Comité d'Expansion Economique du Val d'Oise
 - Ouest Atlantique
- FIN
- Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes
 - Kainuun Etu Oy
 - Regional Council of Etelä-Savo
 - Turku Area Development Centre
- GB
- Greater London Enterprise
 - Highlands & Islands Enterprise
 - London Development Agency
 - One North East
 - Scottish Enterprise
 - Welsh Assembly Government
- I
- Agenzia per lo Sviluppo per il Trentino SpA
 - ASTER - Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Tecnologico dell Emilia Romagna
 - BIC Sardegna
 - ERVET – Politiche per Imprese
 - Milano Metropoli
 - Società Consortile Langhe Monferrato e Roero
 - SOPRIP – Servizi per lo Sviluppo
- IRL
- Enterprise Ireland
 - Údarás na Gaeltachta
- NL
- Industriebank LIOF
 - NV NOM – Noordelijke Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij
- P
- ADERAM – Agência de Desenvolvimento da Madeira
 - ADRAL – Agência de Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo
- PL
- Lublin Development Foundation
 - Regional Development Agency Bielso-Biala
 - Regional Development Agency in Konin
- S
- ALMI Företagspartner AB
- SK
- RDA Zilina
- Felix BELLIDO
Rafael ESCAMILLA
Francisco ROYANO GUTIERREZ
Juan OLABARRI
- Alain MAGNAN
Jean-Charles VALLÉE
Michel DELAU
Jean-François BENON
Jean-Luc FIRMIN
- Ritva NIRKKONEN
Antti TOIVANEN
Riitta KOSKINEN
Kalle EURO
- Martin LARGE
Frank GASKELL
Ian CATLOW
Iain DERRICK
Sarah ENGLISH
Paul O'DONOVAN
- Stefano ROBOL
Valeria BANDINI
Paolo CHERCHI
Roberta DALL'OLIO
Renato GALLIANO
Umberto FAVA
Maria Laura LODOLA
- Pat MAHER
John BENNETT
- Antoine PLATEN
Theun WIJBENGA
- Carlos ESTUDANTE
Luis CAVACO
- Andrzej KIDYBA
Stanislaw GINDA
Dariusz KALUZNY
- Thomas HENNINGSON
Miroslav TVAROZEK

The Executive Committee is still composed of :

President	Jacques EVRARD
1 st Vice-President	Renato GALLIANO
Vice-Presidents	Michel DELAU Carlos ESTUDANTE Miguel LUCENA Ritva NIRKKONEN Antoine PLATEN
Past President	David WALBURN

II. Promotion of the Association

On 1.1.2008, Eurada was 145 members strong, as against 148 members on 1.1.2007.

The geographical distribution of our membership on 1.1.2008 is, and compares to the situation between 1.1.1998 and 1.1.2008 as follows :

Countries	1.1.98	1.1.00	1.1.01	1.1.02	1.1.03	1.1.04	1.1.05	1.1.06	1.1.07	1.1.08
<u>EU15</u>										
A	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
B	12	11	12	12	13	11	12	13	11	11
D	4	3	4	5	5	3	3	3	3	3
DK	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
E	11	10	10	11	12	12	14	15	16	17
F	29	28	28	31	30	21	21	26	25	26
FIN	4	7	8	9	9	10	11	9	9	9
GR	5	2	2	1	1	-	-	1	1	1
I	7	12	13	12	10	11	13	12	10	11
IRL	3	3	3	3	2	4	4	4	4	4
L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
NL	4	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	3
P	4	12	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
S	4	7	8	8	8	9	7	5	4	4
UK	20	19	21	20	19	17	15	16	15	15
Miscellaneous	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	116	125	124	122	119	107	109	112	108	111
<u>EU12</u>										
BG	2	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
CZ	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	2
EE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
H	6	4	4	5	4	4	3	2	2	1
LT	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
MT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
PL	13	9	8	8	5	5	5	6	5	5
RO	2	-	1	-	-	3	4	7	7	4
SK	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2
SLO	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	1
Total	29	21	20	21	18	20	20	25	25	18
<u>Others</u>										
AL	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BA	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
BR	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
CH	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HR	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
MX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
RU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
SN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
TR	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	4	5
UA	-	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
USA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
YU	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	2	4	3	4	5	9	11	10	11
<u>Partnership Forum</u>										
Consultant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
University	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Corporate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	5
TOTAL	146	148	146	145	140	129	134	143	148	145

The following member changes were recorded :

New members

ADER – Agencia de Desarrollo Económico de La Rioja (E)
Agence de Stimulation Economique (B)
BOM – Brabantse Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij (NL)
Business Support Centre for SMEs – Ruse (BG)
City Development Agency Banja Luka (BA)
Comité d'Expansion Economique de Loire-Atlantique (F)
Cukurova Development Agency (TR)
Global Consulting & Affiliates (USA)
IKTISAD – Association for Economic Development and Social Progression (TR)
Izmir Development Agency (TR)
KOSGEB – SMI Development Organisation (TR)
Maison de l'Europe (L)
Paris Développement (F)
Yesilirmak River Basin Development Union (TR)

Resignations

BOM – Brabantse Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij (NL) (au 1.1.08)
Czechinvest (CZ)
Development Company of Valkeakoski Region (FIN)
Développement 25 (F)
IDELUX – Association Intercommunale d'Equipement Economique de la Provice de Luxembourg (B) (au 1.1.08)
MARR – Malopolska Agency for Regional Development (PL)
POM Antwerpen (B) (au 1.1.08)
Regional Development Agency for Central Moravia (CZ)

Members who have not paid their 2007 membership fees (excluded)

APITSIAR – Association of Industrial, Technological, Scientific Parks and Business Incubators of Romania
Banca Intesa (I)
Bucharest Ilfov Regional Development Agency (RO)
City Development Agency of Banja Luka (BA)
IKTISAD – Association for Economic Development and Social Progression (TR)
Mersin Development and Cooperation Council (TR)
Odessa Oblast Regional Development Agency (UA)
Regional Development Agency South West Oltenia (RO)
RAIC Presov (SK)
South Great Plain RDA (H)
SUME – Servicios Urbanos, Minicipales y Estatales S.C. (MX)
Zagreb County RDA (HR)

New members having applied for membershiip in 2007 with effect on 1.1.2008

Association pour la Promotion du Partenariat International et de l'Emploi (SN)
GTK International (SN)
SIL Patto Territoriale Oristano (I)
The Export Consortium (USA)

III. Dialogue with the European Commission

- The dialogue with the various European Commission services was mainly related to :
 - innovation
 - industrial policy
 - SME access to finance
 - research intensive clusters
 - policy in favour of SMEs
 - regional State aid
 - JEREMIE Initiative
 - future of the cohesion policy
 - interclusters cooperation
 - transfer of know-how in regional development
- Memoranda were forwarded to the European Commission services in the field of "SMEs and Regions" and "Regional Expertise Outsourcing".
- The Secretariat was invited to participate in the European Commission's work relating to :
 - Research Intensive Clusters
 - Social responsibility of enterprises and local development
 - Adaptation to change in SMEs
 - Clusters Memorandum
 - Pro-Inno hearing steering group
- DG Enterprise and Industry continued to invite EURADA to its expert group called "SME Stakeholders".

Below is a short description of the main issues discussed with the various European Commission services.

DG Enterprise and Industry

- ◆ Lead markets
- ◆ Industrial policy
- ◆ SMEs and regions
- ◆ Innovation at regional level

DG Competition

- ◆ Regional State aid
- ◆ State aid : block exemptions

DG Employment

- ◆ Adaptation to change in SMEs
- ◆ Social responsibility of enterprises and local development

DG Regio - Regional policy

- ◆ Interreg IV

- ◆ Innovation, RTD and regional policy
- ◆ Venture capital at regional level

DG Research

- ◆ Knowledge regions
- ◆ Research intensive clusters
- ◆ Socioeconomic research

European Investment Fund

- ◆ JEREMIE Initiative

DG Energy

- ◆ Campaign in favour of sustainable development

Representatives of the following European Commission services had a dialogue with the EURADA members in the 2007 events :

DG Enterprise and Industry
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
DG Competition
DG Regio
DG Environment
DG Agriculture and Rural Development
DG Energy and Transport
DG Education and Culture

as well as representatives of the European Investment Fund and the European Investment Bank.

This proves the large diversity of the topics dealt with in the year 2007.

IV. Round Table of Practitioners in Economic Development

Three meetings were organised in 2007. They concerned Business Retention, SMEs and Regions and the Future of the Community Cohesion Policy.

V. Contacts with National Administrations and other International Organisations

5.1 USA , New Zealand, Canada, China, Japan

The previous contacts were consolidated, which was confirmed by the participation of representatives of those countries in a few events or by the exchange of relevant information between networks.

External speakers representing the consultancy companies Ernst & Young, CM International, McKinsey, Grant Thornton and Fortis Banque have shared their analyses and experiences with the EURADA members in the **Agorada** events.

5.2 WIC La Baule –Europe+ Foundation

The partnership with that organisation was reinforced. EURADA is more than ever associated to the event's content (programme and awards).

5.3 Others : Interclusters, INSME, EUA

The Secretariat has supported the Interclusters Association in the organisation of three seminars and a training session in the field of transnational cooperation between clusters.

The EURADA and INSME Secretariats have decided to strengthen their relationship. EURADA and EUA (European University Association) have started to exchange information in order to prepare **Agorada 2008**.

VI. Outline of the 2007 events

Participation of Christian Saublens as an expert in working groups of the European Commission or other organisations

- SME Stakeholders (DG Enterprise & Industry)
- Research Intensive Clusters (DG Research)
- Standardisation of services to SMEs (DG Enterprise and Industry)
- Inno-Learning Steering Group (DG Enterprise and Industry)

Participation of Jacques Evrard, President of EURADA, in events organised by the European Commission or other organisations

- Cluster Memorandum (DG Enterprise and Industry)

Participation of EURADA members as speakers in meetings organised by the European Commission

- Renato Galliano (Milano Metropoli) : Corporate Social Responsibility

Dialogue and exchange of experience between the members with possible participation of European Commission's representatives

- Round Table of Practitioners in Economic Development : Business Retention
- Round Table of Practitioners in Economic Development : SMEs and Regions
- Round Table of Practitioners in Economic Development : Cohesion Policy post 2013
- N2N – Cooperation between clusters
- EU Policy Update – Training seminar : Introduction to the Community Policies
- WIC La Baule 2007 and WIC La Baule 2008 Steering Committee
- 7th CEEC Congress (Sofia, BG)
- **Agorada 2007** and **Agorada 2007+**
- Training on the internationalisation of clusters managers
- 2nd European Congress on PPP

Statutory meetings

In 2007, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors met twice each. The 2007 General Assembly met twice within the framework of **Agorada 2007** and **Agorada 2007+**

EBAN meetings

In 2007, EURADA participated in the following EBAN meetings :

- 2007 Congress in Estoril (P)
- Executive Committee
- Board of Directors
- General Assembly
- EASY Project (investment readiness)

Meetings within the framework of implementing Community programmes

The Secretariat organised or participated in :

- FinNetSME (regional value chain of access to finance by SMEs)
- Automotive Regions
- DQE (Design, Quality, Environment)
- InnoCoach (Coaching in the field of regional innovation strategy in CEECs)
- EOS (European Office Services)
- Eurodite (Creation of knowledge in the regions)
- BUMED (Access to finance in Turkey)

Training seminars

In addition to the "EU Policy Update" days, EURADA for the first time co-organised training seminars. The topics of these events were :

- Internationalisation of clusters
- Investment readiness
- All Money is not the same

Other meetings

The Secretariat was associated to the events which led to the creation of the Spanish association of RDAs and had the opportunity to participate in one of the meetings of the directors of the Polish Association of RDAs (NARDA).

EURADA participated in many other events, of which IEDC annual meeting (USA) and WIC La Baule 2007.

VII. Major Events

Five major meetings of the members were organised in 2007. For memory, these were :

- ✓ **Agorada 2007** on "Is there any Future for Industrial Activities in the European Regions ? "
- ✓ 7th Congress of CEEC RDAs on " European Integration, Regional Policy and Economic Growth : Investing in Regions' Potential to Promote the Competitiveness of Regional Economies and SMEs", organise avec BARDA, Bulgarian Association of Regional Development Agencies and Business Centres
- ✓ PPP Congress on 'Private-Public Partnership in Regional Economic Development", in cooperation with Madrid Emprande (E)
- ✓ **Agorada 2007+** on "Innovation in Business Support Service Schemes"
- ✓ Interclustering 2007

These are important events both for the association and for its members in the sense that they are attended (a) by many members, (b) by representatives of the European Commission, not only as speakers, but also as observers, (c) and by non members for whom they are an opportunity to understand the nature of EURADA's work. Moreover, these events are networking opportunities and an occasion to learn more about knowledge and practices available both inside and outside the association.

The rate of participation in **Agorada** is stable with some 100 to 120 persons originating in more than 25 countries. Furthermore, this year approximately 20 representatives of the European Commission services intervened in one way or the other in the work of this annual event. It should, however, be noted that **Agorada 2007+** did not attract many members from EU10 countries.

The 7th Congress of CEEC RDAs was really successful both by the number of participants and their geographical origins and by the quality of the debates. Five representatives of the Community authorities made presentations.

VIII. Promotion of Joint Projects

EURADA put a lot in 2007 in the implementation of the Innovation Coach, FinNetSME, Automotive Regions and DQE projects.

The Secretariat initiated the "Gazelles" project, submitted late November 2007, and helped the formation of partnerships for several Interreg IV C projects.

IX. Interclustering

Interclusters 2007 falls within the inescapable process of a larger internationalisation of regional development structures or tools, of which the clusters. The event organised on 6 and 7 December 2007 was preceded by three other seminars.

X. Publications

The major publications issued by the Secretariat in 2007 were :

- Eurada-News : 12 issues
- Eurada Magazine : 6th issue : Spring 2007
- Electronic magazine eReminder : 31 issues
- Electronic magazine eDissemination : 1 issue
- Quarterly Barometer of Community policies : 1 issue (the last one)
- All Money is not the same – July 2007 and November 2007

Within the framework of the Round Table of Practitioners in Economic Development, summary documents were issued :

- Business Retention
- SMEs and Regions
- Regional Development Policy post 2013 : Doing more and better with less

Furthermore, the following reflection documents were worked out by EURADA and disseminated :

- Reflections on the quest for regional excellence in a knowledge-based economy
- Research and Innovation Free Zones
- Innovation in the Public Business Support Services Industry

Within the framework of the InnoCoach Project, the Secretariat drafted the following documents :

- Methodological Portfolio
- All Money is not the same (Rev. November 2007)
- Specific Support Actions to new Member States Regional Innovation Strategies

Finally, the Secretariat disseminated in May 2007 its Compendium of the Community Legislation Affecting Regional Development Policies for the Programming Period 2007-2013. This compendium comprises three volumes. Commissioner D. Hübner has written the preface.

XI. Visibility

The content of the web site was deeply updated in late 2007.

The presentations of the speakers in the seminars organised by EURADA were posted on the website.

XII. Financial Resources

EURADA has a budget of €450,000.

The resources break down as follows :

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| • Membership fees | 70 % |
| • Services, registration fees,
financial products | 30 % |

The major cost centres are as follows :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| • Wages | 56% |
| • Organisation of seminars and conferences | 13% |
| • Communications | 6% |
| • Office rent | 5% |
| • Others | 20% |



The breakdown of the "revenue" and "expenses" headings has been relatively stable since 1995.

The General Assembly has adopted the membership fee scale for 2008 :

- Full members : € 3,325
- Full members from EUR12 : € 2,425
- Associate and subscribing members : € 2,150
- Partner members : € 3,325
- Members from non EU countries : € 550
- Members of the Eurada Partnership Forum :
 - Private enterprises : € 3,325
 - Universities : € 1,125
 - Consultants (small and medium) : € 2,250